

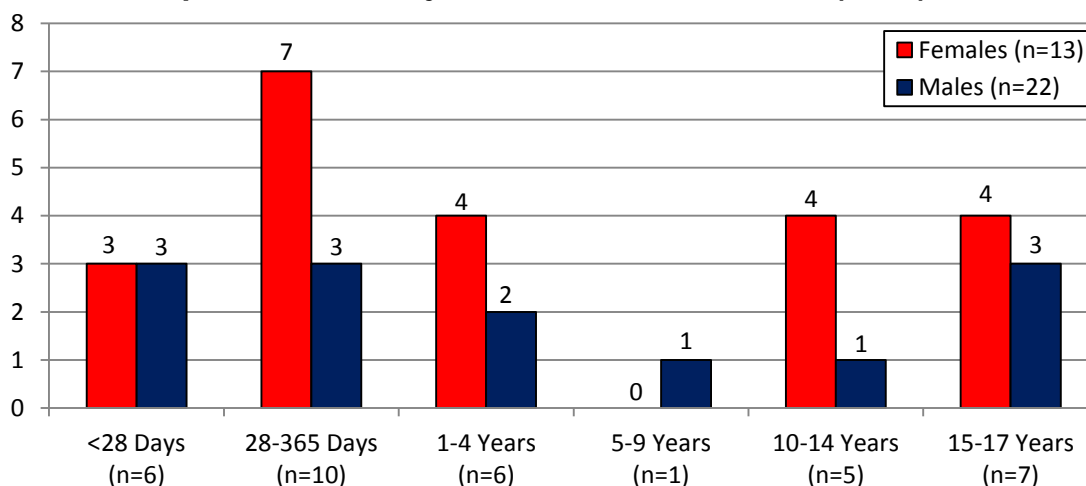


2010 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Apache or Navajo Counties. During 2010, there were 35 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Apache (n=12) and Navajo (n=23). Males accounted for 63 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=22) and females accounted for 37 percent (n=13). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,
Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2010 (n=35)**

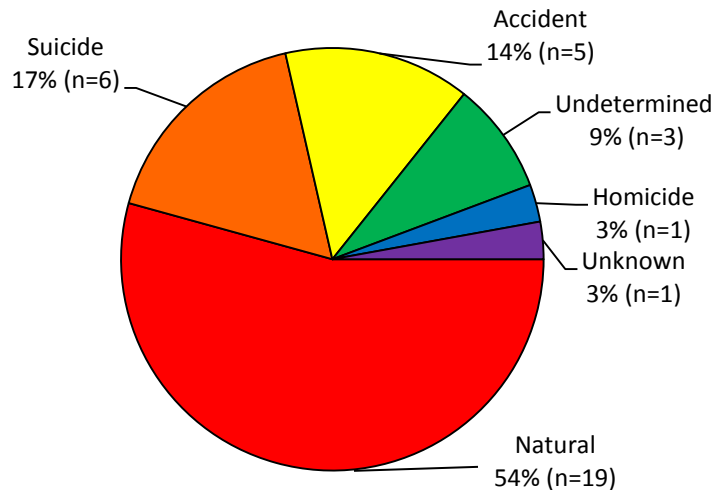


Deaths were over-represented among American Indian children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 62 percent of the population but 74 percent of the fatalities (n=26). Hispanic children comprised nine percent of the population in these counties and nine percent of the fatalities (n=3). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 25 percent of the population and 17 percent of the fatalities (n=6).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Fifty-four percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=19), 17 percent were due to suicides (n=6), nine percent were of undetermined manner (n=3). Fourteen percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=5), and three percent were due to homicides (n=1). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2010 (n=35)



Three children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 13 deaths were due to medical causes. Five deaths determined to have been natural were the result of prematurity and six deaths were due to hangings. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2010 (n=35)

Cause	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Unknown	Total
Medical*	12	0	0	0	0	1	13
Prematurity	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Motor Vehicle Crash	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Firearm	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hanging	0	1	5	0	0	0	6
Undetermined	2	0	0	0	2	0	4
Poisoning	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other Injury	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total	19	5	6	1	3	1	35

*Excluding Prematurity and SIDS

Among the three motor vehicle crash deaths, two children were passengers and one child was a pedestrian. Of the two vehicle passengers who died in crashes, one child was in the back seat and one was riding in a truck bed at the time of the collision.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that could have prevented the death. The Local Child Fatality Review Team determined that 42 percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (n=15).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team may have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Apache and Navajo Counties, lack of supervision was a contributing factor for 5 deaths (14 percent), and two deaths involved lack of vehicle restraint use (six percent). Drugs and/or alcohol were a contributing factor for 6 deaths (17 percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Apache and Navajo Counties in 2010.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2010		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use (including alcohol)	6	17%
Lack of supervision	5	14%
Lack of MV restraint	2	6%
Co-sleeping	2	6%
No mental health treatment	2	6%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2010, 35 children who were residents of Apache or Navajo Counties died, and 806 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Apache and Navajo Counties had a crude rate of 64.1 child deaths per 100,000 child residents, a higher rate than the remainder of the state (51.2 deaths per 100,000 child residents). Apache and Navajo Counties also had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Forty-two percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County child deaths were determined to have been preventable

(n=15), compared to nearly one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=264).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (37 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (42 percent). Prematurity accounted for fourteen percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona (23 percent). Motor vehicle crashes accounted for nine percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but only seven percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the top three leading causes of child deaths for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2010			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=35)		Arizona, Excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=806)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	37%	Medical	42%
Hanging	17%	Hanging	2%
Prematurity	14%	Prematurity	23%

In Apache and Navajo Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to suicides (17 percent). In the remaining counties suicides only accounted for two percent of child deaths. There was a smaller percentage of natural deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (54 percent), compared to the rest of the state (66 percent). Homicides accounted for three percent of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties and four percent in the remaining counties. Fourteen percent of the child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties were accidents, and eighteen percent of deaths in the rest of Arizona were due to accidents. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 2010			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=35)		Arizona, excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=806)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	54%	Natural	66%
Accident	14%	Accident	18%
Suicide	17%	Suicide	2%
Homicide	3%	Homicide	4%
Undetermined	9%	Undetermined	9%
Unknown	3%	Unknown	<1%